

REMARKS

Applicant notes that an abstract was previously filed as page 55 of the English translation. In the amended abstract submitted herewith, the reference to "(Fig. 1)" has been deleted.

Applicant has amended the first paragraph at page 1 of the specification to delete the phrase "as set forth in the preamble to claim 1". This is an editorial change which does not affect the scope or content of the disclosure. No new matter is involved.

Applicant has amended the specification at page 13 to add a sentence to the paragraph which describes Figure 6. This sentence which refers to the separation x_1 appears in the original German text of PCT/EP99/08864 (page 14), but the sentence was omitted from the English translation (page 13) filed in this application. The separation x_1 is recited in Claim 33. No new matter is involved in the addition of this sentence to the English translation.

Applicant is pleased to acknowledge the indication by the Examiner in the Official Action that Claims 26-29 and 31 contain patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended the claims to incorporate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

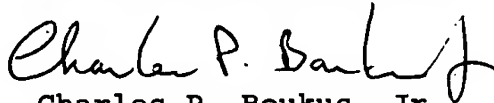
Claim 21 has been amended to include the limitations from dependent Claims 25 and 26 which are now canceled. Claims 22-24, 30 and 32-34 remain dependent on Claim 21 as amended. Claim 27 has been amended to be dependent on Claim 21.

Claim 28 has been amended to include the limitations from Claim 21. Claim 29 remains dependent on Claim 28 as amended.

Claim 31 has been amended to include the limitations from Claims 21 and 30. Claims 32-34 remain dependent on Claim 21. Claims 35 and 36 have been canceled.

Based on the comments by the Examiner in the Official Action, applicant submits that amended Claims 21, 23-24, and 27-34 define patentable subject matter and requests allowance of all claims in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles P. Boukus, Jr.
Registration No. 24,754
Attorney for Applicant
Suite 202
2001 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202
(703) 415-2620

July 2, 2004